

State: IDAHO

STATE PLAN

FOR

INDEPENDENT LIVING

FISCAL YEARS 2005 - 2007

Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended

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ATTACHMENTS

The following is a list of the attachments in the SPIL. The attachments listed are numbered to coincide with their section. It is recommended that these attachments not exceed a combined total of 40 pages in length.

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Section 1: Purpose of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), under Chapter 1 of Title VII

1.1 Philosophy of the Programs (Sec. 701 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.2)

The State assures that in the implementation of this plan the State will:

- (a) Promote a philosophy of independent living (IL), including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual, and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society by providing financial assistance to States;
- (b) Provide financial assistance for providing, expanding, or improving the provision of IL services;
- (c) Provide assistance to develop and support a Statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services; and
- (d) Advocate for improving working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.

1.2 Participation in the Programs (Sec. 704(a)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.10)

The DSU and SILC understand that no Federal funds or other benefits can be made available under Chapter 1 unless the State conforms with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

- (a) This SPIL reflects the State's commitment to carry out an IL plan under Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Chapter 1)¹, and also the State's planning and implementation activities related to the plan.

¹ Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Laws 93-516, 93-651, 95-602, 98-221, 99-506, 100-259, 100-630, 101-336, 102-569, 103-73, and 103-218.

Section 2: Legal Basis and State Certifications (Sec. 704 of the Act)

- (a) As a condition to the receipt of financial assistance under Chapter 1, the

IDAHO STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
(Name of Statewide Independent Living Council)

jointly with the DSU is authorized to develop and sign the SPIL. The DSU and SILC agree to administer the programs in compliance with the provisions of the Act, all applicable regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated by the Secretary, and the provisions of this SPIL.

-
- (b) The State legally may carry out each provision of the SPIL and the DSU has the authority under State law to perform the functions of the plan.

- (c) All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.

- (d) The IDAHO DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
IDAHO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
MARY QUARLES, FINANCIAL MANAGER FOR THE IDAHO DIVISION OF
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
(Title of State Official) (acting on behalf of DSU)

has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL.

- (e) The SPIL being submitted has been adopted or otherwise formally approved by the DSU and SILC.
- (f) The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the Chapter 1 programs, as appropriate,² and is available for public inspection.
- (g) The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2004.

² If a State's expenditures earmarked to support the general operation of CILs is equal to or greater than the amount of Federal funds allotted to the State for this purpose, and the State has applied in SPIL Section 8 to administer the Part C, Ch. 1 program pursuant to section 723 of the Act, then the DSU must provide administrative support to the CILs; otherwise, the Secretary administers the CIL program pursuant to section 722 of the Act and the approved SPIL and the DSU is not required to provide administrative support services. §704(c)(2) of the Act)

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

DATE

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SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR

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Section 3: Plan Submittal

3.1 Frequency of Submittal (Sec. 704(a)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.11, 364.20(b))

- (a) This SPIL is for fiscal years 2005 - 2007. A three-year plan must be submitted every three years by July 1 of the year preceding the first fiscal year for which the plan is submitted, (i.e., July 1, 2004).
- (b) Plan amendments are submitted whenever the Secretary determines an amendment to the SPIL is essential during the effective period of the plan; or when there is a significant and relevant change that materially affects the information or the assurances in the plan, the administration or operation of the plan, or the organization, policies, or operations of the DSU or SILC.

3.2 State Plan Development (Sec. 704(a)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(c))

The State plan is jointly developed and signed by the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC or other individual acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council.

3.3 Public Hearings (Sections 17, 704(m)(6) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(g), (h))

- (a) The State conducts public hearings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations, and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the SPIL prior to its submission to RSA, and on any substantive review or revision of the approved SPIL. The DSU and SILC may meet the public participation requirement by holding the public hearings before a preliminary draft State plan is prepared or by providing a preliminary draft State plan for comment at the public hearings.
- (b) The State establishes and maintains a written description of procedures for conducting public hearings in accordance with the following requirements:
 - (i) The DSU and SILC shall provide appropriate and sufficient notice of the public hearings. Appropriate and sufficient notice means notice provided at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC.
 - (ii) The DSU and SILC shall make reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public hearings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops.
 - (iii) The DSU and SILC shall provide the notices of the public hearings, any written material provided prior to or at the public hearings, and the approved State plan in

accessible formats (e.g., Braille, large print, on disk) for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.

(iv) At the public hearings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC will identify those provisions in the State plan that are State-imposed requirements. For purposes of this section, a State-imposed requirement includes any State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSU's administration or operation of IL programs under Title VII of the Act, including any rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline, that is beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.

(c) The State identifies State imposed requirements resulting from the application of any State rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of the programs under

Chapter 1. Following are descriptions of the State imposed requirements included in the SPIL, if any:

3.4 Opportunity for Review and Comment Under State Review Process (34 CFR 76.141-142)

If the SPIL or an amendment to the plan is subject to the State review process, such materials are reviewed, and commented on, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12372. Comments provided through the State review process will be transmitted to RSA.

Section 4: **Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) (Sec. 705(a) and (b) of the Act)**

4.1 Composition of the SILC (Sec. 705(b) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(b))

(1) State the total number of persons on the SILC.	23
(2) State the number of SILC members with disabilities, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4 (b), and not employed by a State agency or a CIL	14
(3) Is a representative of the DSU an ex-officio, member of the SILC?	Y
(4) State the number of voting members on the SILC.	18
(5) State the number of different disability groups (physical, mental, cognitive, sensory, or multiple) represented by members of the SILC (up to five).	5

(6) Is a CIL director chosen by CIL directors within the State appointed to the SILC?	Y
(7) Does the SILC include representatives from other State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.	Y
(8) Does the council have a voting membership that is knowledgeable about CILs and IL services?	Y
(9) Do Council members provide statewide representation?	Y
(10) Is the Council Chairperson elected from among the voting members of the Council by the voting members of the Council or the Governor, pursuant to section 705(b)(5) of the Act?	Y

4.2 Placement of the SILC (Sec. 705(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(a)(2))

The SILC is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the DSU, and is independent of the DSU and all other State agencies. Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC:

House Bill 711, passed during the 2004 legislative session, and effective July 1, 2004, establishes the Idaho SILC as a State of Idaho government entity that is a separate and autonomous body. The DSU will act as a fiduciary agent for the SILC. The SILC is located in a separate office building from the DSU and continues to maintain its own policies and by-laws which govern its operations.

(House Bill 711 is attached.) See pages 23-26.

4.3 Plan for Provision of Resources to the SILC (SILC Budget) Sec. 705(e) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(i))

- (a) In conjunction with the DSU, the SILC will prepare a Resource Plan Attachment 2 (SILC Budget) for the provision of resources, cash or in-kind, including staff and personnel, rent, supplies, telephone expenses, travel, and other expenses (e.g., child care, personal assistance services, and compensation to a member of the SILC, if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment, for each day the member is engaged in performing SILC duties) that will be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC during the term of the SPIL.
- (b) The SILC will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the SILC Budget.
- (c) No conditions or requirements are included in the SILC Budget that will compromise the independence of the SILC.

- (d) While assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties under the SPIL, staff and other personnel assigned to the SILC under the SILC Budget will not be assigned duties by the DSU or other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

Attachment 2 - Describes the SILC Budget.

Attachment 2 must include a description of the SILC's Budget for the three years covered by the SPIL, including the sources of funds, staff, supplies, and other resources made available under parts B and C of Chapter 1, Part C of Title I of the Act, and from State and other public and private sources, that may be necessary for the SILC to carry out its responsibilities under section 705 of the Act and the SPIL. No conditions or requirements may be included in the SILC's resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC. The SILC is responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan. The SILC shall, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions. While assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties, staff and other personnel made available to the SILC by the DSU may not be assigned duties by the designated State agency or DSU, or any other agency or office of the State, that would create a conflict of interest.

Section 5: Designation and Responsibilities of the State Unit(s)

5.1 Designation (Sec. 704(c) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The State unit(s) designated to receive, account for, and disburse funds, and provide administrative support services is (are):

IDAHO DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

5.2 DSU Responsibilities under the SPIL (Sec. 704(c) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The DSU:

- (a) Receives, accounts for, and disburses funds received by the State under Chapter 1 in accordance with the SPIL;
- (b) Provides administrative support services for the part B State IL services (SILS) program and the part C, Chapter. 1, CIL program in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723 of the Act;
- (c) Keeps such records and affords such access to such records as the Secretary finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; and

- (d) Submits the SPIL and such additional information or provides such assurances as the Secretary may require with respect to the programs.

Section 6: Staff and Staff Development

6.1 Personnel Administration (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.23)

- (a) The staff of service providers will include personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of CILs.
- (b) To the maximum extent feasible, each service provider will make available personnel able to communicate --
 - (1) With individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tape, and who apply for or receive IL services under the SPIL; and
 - (2) In the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under the SPIL.

6.2 Personnel Development (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.24)

The State assures that service providers will establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development program will emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of the IL philosophy.

6.3 Affirmative Action (Sec. 704(m)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.31)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

6.4 Nondiscrimination (34 CFR 76.500)

No individual will, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under this SPIL.

Section 7: Financial Administration

7.1 General Provisions (Sec. 704(m)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.34)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will adopt such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds paid to the State under Chapter 1.

7.2 Source of State Funds (Sections 712(b)(2) and 7(7)(C) of the Act; 34 CFR 365.12, .13 and .14, 367.11, .42)

- (a) The one to nine non-Federal share of the cost of any project that receives assistance through an allotment under part B, Chapter 1 will be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services, consistent with 34 CFR 365.13, .14, and .15.
- (b) For the purpose of determining the Federal share with respect to the State, expenditures by a political subdivision of the State will, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, be regarded as expenditures by the State.
- (c) The State may not condition the award of a grant, subgrant, or contract under part B, Chapter 1 or a grant, subgrant, or assistance contract under part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the grant or subgrant make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State. Furthermore, an individual, entity, or organization that is a grantee or subgrantee of the State, or has a contract with the State, may not condition the award of a subgrant or subcontract under part B, Chapter 1 or part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the subgrant or subcontract make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State or to the grantee or contractor of the State.

7.3 Financial Record Keeping (Sec. 704(m)(4)(A) and (B) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.35)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will:

- (a) Maintain records that fully disclose--
 - (1) the amount and disposition by each recipient of the proceeds of such financial assistance,
 - (2) the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such financial assistance is given or used, and
 - (3) the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources; and
 - (4) compliance with the requirements of Chapter 1 and 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.

- (b) Maintain such other records as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

7.4 Access to Financial Records (Sec. 704(m)(4 & 5) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.37)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will afford access to the Secretary and the Comptroller General or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits and examinations, to all records maintained pursuant to section 7.3 of the SPIL immediately above and any other books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients that are pertinent to the financial assistance received under Chapter 1.

7.5 Financial Reports (Sec. 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.36)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will submit reports with respect to records required in section 7.3 of the SPIL, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

Section 8: State Administration of Part C Program³

NOTE - THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO §723 STATES.

8.1 Funds Earmarked to Support CILs (Sec. 723(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

³ (a) To meet the requirements in section 723(a)(1)(B) and (2) of the Act, a **§723 State must submit this section of the SPIL for approval each year** subsequent to the first year of approval to administer the Part C, Chapter 1 program.

(b) Unless the provisions of Attachment 8 are materially changed, submittal of this Section shall not constitute a material revision of the SPIL requiring public hearings or State review under SPIL Section 3.

In the second fiscal year preceding fiscal year 2000, the general operations of CILs in the State were supported by the following amounts of earmarked funds⁴:

State Funds

Federal Allotment

8.2 State Applies to Administer Part C Program (Sections 704(h) and 723 of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

The director of the DSU hereby applies to award grants or assistance contracts to eligible agencies in the State that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act. The grants are to be made from the funds allotted to the State for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of CILs under part C, Chapter 1.

8.3 State administers funds in compliance with §723 (Sec. 704(h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32, .35)

- (a) If Section 8.2 is answered in the affirmative, the director of the DSU awards grants or assistance contracts under section 723 of the Act to any eligible agency that was awarded a grant under part C, Chapter 1 on September 30, 1993, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act or the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC, or other individual designated by the SILC to act on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, jointly agree to another order of priorities.
- (b) The State assures that any assistance contracts issued to eligible agencies will not add any requirements, terms, or conditions to the assistance contract other than those that would be permitted if the assistance contract were a subgrant consistent with grants issued by RSA under section 722 of the Act.

⁴

The amount of State funds earmarked by a State to support the general operation of centers does not include: (1) Federal funds used for the general operation of centers; (2) State funds used to purchase services from a CIL, including State funds used for grants or contracts for personal assistance or skills training; (3) State attendant care funds; (4) Social Security Administration reimbursement funds; or (5) funds used to support an entity that does not meet the definition of a CIL in section 702 of the Act, e.g. funds used to support a single disability (If a State or outlying area is operating a CIL pursuant to section 724 of the Act, the funds used to support this CIL can be considered "earmarked" for purposes of section 723(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Act.) or residential facility cannot be counted as earmarked funds.

(c) In administering the part C, Chapter 1 program, the State will not enter into any procurement contracts with CILs to carry out section 723 of the Act.

8.4 Monitoring and Oversight. (§§704(h), 723(g) and (h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.38)

The State assures that periodic and on-site compliance reviews will be conducted to determine CIL compliance with section 725 of the Act as described in Attachment 3.

Attachment 4 describes the policies, practices, and procedures, which comply with section 723 of the Act, that the State utilizes for awarding continuation and new grants.

Section 9: Information on Use of Part B, Chapter 1 Funds

9.1 Use of §711 funds in support of §713 purposes (Sec. 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 365.1)

Part B Funds are to be used only for any one or more of the following purposes (all optional):	Directly by DSU	Grant/Contract	Dollar Amt.
(a) Fund the resource plan for SILC (SPIL Section 4).	N	Y	
Pro (b) Provide IL services to individuals with significant Disabilities	Y (ICBVI)	Y	
(c) Demonstrate ways to expand and improve IL services.	N	Y	
(d) Support the general operation of CILs.	N	Y	
(e) Support activities to increase capacity of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing IL services.	Y (ICBVI)	Y	
(f) Conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policy makers to enhance IL services.	Y (ICBVI)	Y	
(g) Train individuals with significant disabilities, individuals providing services to individuals with significant disabilities, and other persons regarding IL philosophy.	N	Y	
(h) Provide outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.	Y (ICBVI)	Y	

Attachment 1 describes the uses, objectives, and amounts of part B, Chapter 1 funds supporting each purpose.

Section 10: Outreach (Sections 704(l) and 713(7) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.32)

The State reaches out to populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, who are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under Chapter 1.

Attachment 1 describes the steps that will be taken regarding outreach to populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, who are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under Chapter 1. Attachment 1 also describes populations designated for special outreach efforts and the geographic areas in which they

reside (e.g., individuals with significant disabilities residing on land controlled by American Indians.)

Section 11: Extent and Scope of IL Services (Sections 7(30), 704(e) and 713(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.43)

- (a) Attachment 1 describes all IL services to be provided under the SPIL to meet the objectives in Section 10.
- (b) The State provides the following IL core services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities:
 - (1) Information and referral;
 - (2) IL skills training;
 - (3) Peer counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling); and
 - (4) Individual and systems advocacy,
- (c) The IL core services may be provided directly by the DSU, or through grant or contract. While the State is required to provide these services, it may fund the services using funds from any source, e.g., part B or part C, Chapter 1, State funds, or other funds.
- (d) In addition, the State provides the following IL services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities⁵:
 - (1) X Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services;
 - (2) X Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities);
 - (3) X Rehabilitation technology;
 - (4) X Mobility training;

⁵ Insert an "X" or check mark for each IL service that will be made available. It is not necessary to insert any projection of numbers of consumers to be served.

- (5) X Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services;
- (6) X Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services;
- (7) X Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services;
- (8) X Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act;
- (9) X Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities;
- (10) ___ Supported living;
- (11) X Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation;
- (12) X Physical rehabilitation;
- (13) X Therapeutic treatment;
- (14) X Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices;
- (15) X Individual and group social and recreational services;
- (16) X Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options;
- (17) X Services for children with significant disabilities;
- (18) ___ Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities;
- (19) X Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities assisted under this Act for similar services in the future;

- (20) X Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities; and
- (21) X Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Attachment 1 describes the extent and scope of the IL services identified above, and how they meet the State's objectives for IL. The attachment also describes any arrangements of grants or contracts made by the State for providing such services.

Section 12: Eligibility, Records, IL Plans, and Notice of Client Assistance Program

12.1 Eligibility for Receipt of Services (Sections 7(15)(B) and 703 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.51)

- (a) Individuals with significant disabilities are eligible for services provided under the SPIL.
- (b) To be eligible, an individual is one:
 - (1) Who has a significant physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory impairment;
 - (2) Whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited; and
 - (3) For whom the delivery of IL services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in employment.

12.2 Consumer Service Record (Sections 704(m)(4)(B), 725(c)(8) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.53)

A consumer service record (CSR) will be maintained for each consumer of services, other than information and referral, which will contain documentation that the consumer is eligible or ineligible for IL services, the information required for the annual performance report under 34 CFR 364.36 and 366.50(h), and an IL plan (ILP) or a waiver as described in SPIL Section 13.3.

12.3 IL Plans (Sec. 704(e) and 725(c)(14) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.52)

The State provides IL services under Chapter 1 to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an ILP mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

12.4 Notice about the Client Assistance Program (Sections 20 and 704(m)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.30)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 that provide services to individuals with significant disabilities advise those individuals seeking or receiving IL services about the availability of the Client Assistance Program under section 112 of the Act, the purposes of the services provided under such program, and information on the means of seeking assistance under such program.

Section 13: Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

13.1 Network Design (Sec. 704(g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(a))

The State has developed a design for the establishment of a statewide network of CILs that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act.

13.2 Unserved and Underserved Areas and Priorities (Sec. 704(g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(b))

(a) The network design:

- (i) identifies unserved and underserved geographic areas of the State; and
- (ii) includes an order of priority for the establishment of CILs in those areas.

Attachment 1 describes the design for the establishment of a statewide network of CILs and the order of priorities for the establishment of new CILs. This attachment should be visionary. If the State believes the network is complete, the attachment describes the network, including how it complies with §725 of the Act. future plans for expansion of the network to serve populations that are currently unserved or underserved.

Section 14: Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination (Sections 704(I-k) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.26 and .27)

(a) The State takes steps that maximize the communication, cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among --

- (1) the SILS program, the SILC and CILs; and
- (2) the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities, including Indian Tribal Councils, determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

(b) The State ensures that services funded under Chapter 1 will complement and be coordinated with other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal,

State, and local programs, including the IL program for older individuals who are blind funded under Chapter 2 of Title VII.

- (c) The State coordinates Federal and State funding for CILs and SILS.

Section 15: Evaluation Plan (Sec. 704(n) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.38)

- (a) The State establishes a method for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the SPIL:
 - (1) In meeting the State's objectives and timelines for meeting those objectives;
 - (2) In the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities; and
 - (3) In meeting the objectives established in Section 9 of the SPIL.
- (b) The State agrees to annually submit the results of DSU and SILC evaluation activities, including the most recent evaluation of Title VII consumer satisfaction, with the annual performance report to RSA.

ATTACHMENT 1

It is understood and agreed that this SPIL, including all attachments, is for planning purposes only and does not constitute a legal binding contract. This SPIL shall in no way be construed so as to bind or obligate the State of Idaho, the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired or the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and shall not be enforceable through court action or otherwise, nor shall it be relied upon as the basis of any claim, suit or action against the State of Idaho and/or the signatories hereunder. Provided however, this paragraph shall not affect or limit the rights, responsibilities or obligations of RSA pursuant to Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, nor shall it affect or limit the signatories' rights, responsibilities or obligations pursuant to the provision contained in Attachment 2 of this SPIL identified as "Sufficient Appropriation".

GOALS, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES

The Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) aspires to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer-support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

The Idaho SILC's present Mission Statement was developed during the State Plan for Independent Living Planning Session April 29, 2004 and adopted at the SILC Quarterly Business meeting July 23, 2004. It states: The Idaho SILC's mission is to advocate for and achieve independence, choice, self-determination, equal access and equal opportunity for Idahoans with disabilities through systems change, policy involvement and public education. In developing the above statement, Council members committed to the following responsibilities:

- Develop, sign and submit, in cooperation with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. The SILC will monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- Support the centers for independent living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.
- Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, outreach to un-served and underserved populations, and work to expand and improve IL services.
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources to the SILC known as Attachment 2 in the 2005-2007 SPIL.
- Develop and pursue a public policy agenda that results in positive systemic change for people with disabilities.

BARRIERS

Idaho has unique attributes such as beautiful scenery, land that is sparsely populated and a sprawling geography. Although it is the 13th largest state in the union by size, the 2002 residence census figures show the Idaho total population at 1,341,131. This is a 28.5 percent population

increase from the 1990 census. Rural areas cover 88.3 percent of the state where 36.2 percent of the total population reside. Changes in federal funding have shifted responsibility for many social services from the federal to state and local government levels and has increased pressure on state and local budgets in Idaho. This has increased the difficulty of providing quality social services. Economic difficulties in rural communities translate into increased problems for people with disabilities. Some barriers may be obvious, such as lack of ramped entrances for people who use wheelchairs, lack of interpreters or captioning for people with hearing impairments, or lack of Braille or taped copies of printed material for people who have visual impairments. Transportation within and between cities either doesn't exist, is inconvenient, inaccessible, or is too expensive to use. Accessibility of housing, public buildings and businesses are inadequate. Personal assistance services, occupational, physical and cognitive therapies are often not available in the smaller communities or the service industry has too many people on their waiting lists to service all the needs; couple that with poor transportation facilities to get to the metropolitan areas for these services, and people tend not to receive the proper services.

Since the Idaho SILC's inception, it has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based.

Four initial focus groups were held at the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to gather input for the new three-year State Plan for Independent Living. Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) invited consumers to attend a session on February 3, 2004 in Caldwell and March 5, 2004 in Twin Falls, Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) on February 6, 2004 in Idaho Falls, and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) in Coeur D'Alene on February 24, 2004. The SILC also held a Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) all day planning session April 29, 2004. Council members voiced their concerns and priorities from people with disabilities in their communities. A second round of focus groups followed this to review and comment on the draft plan. Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) invited consumers to attend a session on May 13, 2004 in Boise, Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) on May 26, 2004 in Burley, and Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW) in Lewiston on May 17, 2004.

A compilation of priorities and common themes from the focus groups and the planning session are as follows: (1) increased availability of accessible transportation statewide, (2) increased availability of affordable, accessible housing statewide, (3) the enforcement of existing civil rights laws (4) expanded and affordable health care options, including affordable prescriptions, the funding of a Medicaid Buy-In program and insurance parity for mental health services.

VISION

It is the vision of the Idaho SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where people with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate people with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them. The road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systems change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer support and self-help groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach. Systems change includes further de-medicalization, de-institutionalization, strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. The SILC will continue to evaluate existing programs to determine their effectiveness, and then encourage redirection of resources to provide optimum opportunities for people with disabilities. The SILC will also work to promote greater program

coordination in order to reduce inappropriate and unnecessary regulatory requirements, which will allow the state to utilize a greater portion of its resources for services to individuals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED UNDER THE SPIL AND TIMELINES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

GOALS 2005—2007

- Promote and conduct activities that empower people with disabilities;
- Reach out to unserved, underserved and minority populations;
- Provide education and training on disability issues;
- Support projects that expand and improve independent living opportunities;
- Conduct activities that develop model policies for Idahoans with disabilities;
- Increase the awareness and understanding of the independent living philosophy in Idaho.

During the period covered by this Plan, the SILC will promote programs and services that contribute to the independence of people with disabilities. The SILC will also work toward reducing inappropriate and unnecessary regulatory requirements. Adequate resources exist in the State of Idaho to meet the needs of people with disabilities, however, it is the SILC's position that there is a need to:

- Promote greater program coordination;
- Evaluate programs which fail to meet the expressed needs of people with disabilities and, following such evaluation, redirect resources to provide for new and innovative choices for people with disabilities; and
- Reduce the size and requirements of bureaucracies allowing the State to utilize a greater portion of its resources for services to individuals.

SILC MEMBER DEVELOPMENT 2005—2007

1. *Train all SILC members on their roles, responsibilities, and the independent living philosophy.*

ACTIVITIES

- Maintain an annual training calendar.
 - Continue to provide an orientation activity for all new SILC members and SILC staff.
 - Arrange for staff and SILC members attendance at at least one national meeting/conference per year.
 - Maintain a mentoring program for Council members.
2. *Provide in-service training at SILC meetings.*

ACTIVITIES

- Arrange for SILC and other State agencies to receive technical assistance from the Rural Training Centers, Regional Counselor Education Program, and National Institute on Research and Rehabilitation.
 - Obtain cultural diversity training.
 - Obtain legislative issues training.
 - Ensure training of SILC members on the independent living philosophy.
3. *Conduct and support accessible meetings.*

ACTIVITIES

- Enforce policy on printed materials used by the SILC and provide it to all contractors and agencies working in conjunction with the SILC.
- Enforce policy regarding interpreters utilized by the SILC and provide it to all contractors and agencies working in conjunction with the SILC.
- Enforce policy on accessible meeting locations used by the SILC and provide it to all contractors and agencies working in conjunction with the SILC.
- Share copies of accessibility policies with State and local agencies and elected officials and conduct any needed training on the policies to aid in their implementation.

2005 OBJECTIVES

1. *Create a building code approval and enforcement process that follows the universal design model.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Reconvene the Committee on Statewide Accessibility Standards to discuss developing legislation that incorporates the universal design and visitability models.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff

2. *Advocate for the rights of parents with disabilities.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Support the continued funding of Fathers and Mothers Independently Living with their Youth (FAMILY) legislation.
2. Include computer training for children and parents in the Parent Support Project.
3. Educate parents about recent changes in the law and their rights.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff

3. *Develop a means for delivery of urgent information and immediate action by consumers and supporters.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Through legislative updates, inform consumers, SILC members and interested parties of legislative actions affecting people with disabilities.
2. Identify legislators who support independent living and communicate their support to consumers, SILC members and interested parties.
3. Conduct a legislative policy session each year to identify priority issues.
4. Identify other publications distributed statewide and submit SILC articles on relevant topics.
5. Consider publishing SILC updates between May and December focusing on statewide content.

6. Develop a list serve for action items.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff.

- 4. *Remove the bias within public policy that favors institutional care in the funding of programs for people with disabilities.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Develop an on-going transition fund for people moving from institutional settings into the community.
2. Develop a crisis fund to prevent institutionalization, maintaining people in their own homes.
3. Develop non-monetary resources to ease transition.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff

- 5. *Develop and implement a strategy that would increase/expand health care options.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Achieve Medicaid Buy-In funding as soon as possible.
2. Take a more active role to support and work with AARP on ID RX.

Responsible Parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff

- 6. *Create flexible integrated self- directed transportation options.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Work with legislative interim committee on transportation.
2. Advocate for state funding of transportation and better coordination of existing public transportation sources.
3. Advocate for voucher programs that provide 24 hour a day, 7 day a week service.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

- 7. *In conjunction with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs), conduct a statewide conference to promote leadership development.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Dedicate funding from the SILC budget for training implementation.
2. Commit funding from the SILC budget to support the attendance of people with disabilities. Acquire additional funding from other sources.
3. Retain a contractor to develop and organize the leadership conference.

4. Provide training on the independent living philosophy to conference attendees.
5. Present the concepts of leadership, empowerment and self-determination to conference attendees.
6. Present information on working together in local communities to conference attendees.

Responsible parties: Program Committee and SILC Staff

8. *Create awareness about the independent living movement and self-advocacy in Idaho Schools.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Educate parents and teachers of the role CILs play in transitioning.
2. In conjunction with Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc. (IPUL) and the State Department of Education identify/develop and disseminate written materials which will educate students with disabilities and educators regarding the independent living philosophy.
3. Disseminate written materials to Head Start students and educators
4. Include information about people who have disabilities that are not necessarily visible.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

9. *Provide in-service training for two outside service organizations.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Enlist SILC members to deliver presentations to interested service organizations.
2. Develop a speakers' bureau on independent living.
3. Develop and distribute information packets on independent living for outreach to service organizations.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

10. *Reach out to the un-served and underserved populations in rural areas.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain networks with existing grassroots organizations related to disability issues.

2. Maintain networks with existing peer groups.
3. Further work to identify rural issues that are barriers to empowerment.
4. Identify specific realistic priority areas for rural outreach.
5. Network with faith-based organizations.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

11. *Promote the civil rights (equality) of people with disabilities.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Continue to take a lead role in the Idahoans with Disabilities Act Task Force.
2. Advocate for the passage of the Idahoans with Disabilities Act.
3. Advocate for the simplification of other Idaho law codification dealing with disability.
4. Coordinate efforts with other civil rights groups on common issues.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC Staff

2006 OBJECTIVES

1. *Promote people with disabilities serving in policy-making positions.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Research training curriculums on how to run for public office.
2. Dedicate funding to provide training to people with disabilities on how to run for public office.
3. Recruit and select people with disabilities to participate in the training.
4. Conduct training on how to run for public office.
5. Follow-up on the success of the participants to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

Responsible parties: Program committee and SILC Staff

2. *Increase funding for housing options.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Advocate for increased funding for Section 8 affordable housing.
2. Work with lenders to increase funding for first time home-buyers with disabilities.
3. Work with homeowners/renters who have disabilities and others to increase access to home modifications.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

3. *Create flexible integrated self- directed transportation options.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Work with legislative interim committee on transportation.
2. Support grass roots organizing campaigns.
3. Advocate for Medicaid to pay for more transportation.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

4. *Increase/expand health care options.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Encourage private insurance to cover personal assistance services.
2. Achieve Medicaid Buy-In funding.
3. Take a more active role to support and work with AARP on ID RX.
4. Distribute information statewide on existing prescription assistance programs.
5. Support Mental Health Insurance parity.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

5. *Increase access to Assistive Technology and Information Technology.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Research and advocate for Idaho tax credit on assistive technology purchases.
2. Clarify ownership of AT purchased by Medicaid for students in Idaho schools.
3. Support increased funding for IATP loan program.

4. Advocate for discounted cell phones for people with disabilities through the telephone company and request that cell phones be made available through the Health & Welfare telephone assistance program.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

6. ***Develop a means for delivery of urgent information and immediate action by consumers and supporters.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Through legislative updates, inform consumers, SILC members and interested parties of legislative actions affecting people with disabilities.
2. Identify legislators who support independent living and communicate their support to consumers, SILC members and interested parties.
3. Conduct a legislative policy session each year to identify priority issues.
4. Identify other publications distributed statewide and submit SILC articles on relevant topics.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff.

7. ***Create awareness about the independent living movement and self-advocacy in Idaho Schools.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Identify and distribute materials that teach self-advocacy techniques to students in the public school system and inform them of issues surrounding transition to the adult world.
2. Work with colleges and universities to incorporate information on independent living into teacher training programs.
3. Evaluate the success of the pilot program in Blackfoot.
4. Advocate for increasing the use of accommodations at universities and colleges.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

8. ***Provide in-service training for two outside service organizations.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Enlist SILC members to deliver presentations to interested service organizations.
2. Develop a speakers' bureau on independent living.

3. Develop and distribute information packets on independent living for outreach to service organizations.
4. Include demographic information about the number of people who will acquire a disability by the age of 60.
5. Produce a Medicaid presentation on institutional versus in-home costs to appropriate organizations.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

9. *Reach out to the un-served and underserved populations in rural areas.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain networks with existing grassroots organizations related to disability issues.
2. Maintain networks with existing peer groups.
3. Further work to identify rural issues that are barriers to empowerment.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

10. *Increase public awareness of what the SILC and CILs do in Idaho.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Review and revise existing SILC publications for clarity.
2. Develop any necessary new publications.
3. Decide how and where to distribute publications.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

11. *In conjunction with the Centers for Independent Living, conduct training in local communities that promotes leadership development.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Dedicate funding from the SILC budget for training implementation.
2. Contract with CILs or other disability community-based organizations to conduct training.
3. Present information on working together in local communities to participants and organize grass roots leadership around the issue of transportation.
4. Present information on the independent living philosophy to participants,

including information about people who have disabilities that are not necessarily visible.

Responsible parties: Program Committee and SILC Staff.

2007 OBJECTIVES

- 1. In conjunction with the Centers for Independent Living (CILs), conduct a statewide conference to promote leadership development.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Dedicate funding from the SILC budget for training implementation.
2. Commit funding from the SILC budget to support the attendance of people with disabilities. Acquire additional funding from other sources.
3. Retain a contractor to develop and organize the leadership conference.
4. Provide training on the independent living philosophy to conference attendees.
5. Present the concepts of leadership, empowerment and self-determination to conference attendees.
6. Present information on working together in local communities to conference attendees.

Responsible parties: Program Committee and SILC Staff.

- 2. Develop a means for delivery of urgent information and immediate action by consumers and supporters.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Through legislative updates, inform consumers, SILC members and interested parties of legislative actions affecting people with disabilities.
2. Identify legislators who support independent living and communicate their support to consumers, SILC members and interested parties.
3. Conduct a legislative policy session each year to identify priority issues.
4. Identify other publications distributed statewide and submit SILC articles on relevant topics.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

- 3. Create awareness about the independent living movement and self-advocacy in Idaho Schools.***

ACTIVITIES

1. Work with colleges and universities to incorporate information on independent living into teacher training programs.
2. Ensure that State Improvement or VI B Grants take effect to add 2 school districts each year.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

4. *Promote people with disabilities serving in policy-making positions.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Dedicate funding to provide training to people with disabilities on how to run for public office.
2. Recruit and select people with disabilities to participate in the training.
3. Conduct training on how to run for public office.
4. Follow-up on the success of the participants to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

Responsible parties: Program committee and SILC Staff

5. *Create flexible integrated self directed transportation options.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Increase availability of accessible taxi cabs.
2. Support grass roots organizing campaigns.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

6. *Provide in-service training for two outside service organizations.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Enlist SILC members to deliver presentations to interested service organizations.
2. Develop a speakers' bureau on independent living.
3. Distribute information packets on independent living for outreach to service organizations and include a bi-lingual packet for Spanish speaking people.
4. Conduct one stakeholder session to inform about the SILC.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

7. *Reach out to the un-served and underserved populations in rural areas.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain networks with existing grassroots organizations related to disability issues.
2. Coordinate with existing groups that work with minority populations.
3. Further work to identify rural issues that are barriers to empowerment.

Responsible parties: Outreach Committee and SILC Staff

8. *Develop and implement a strategy that would increase/expand health care options.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Develop a fact sheet for medical professionals on how to best assist people who are applying for SSI/SSDI.
2. Support Mental Health Insurance parity.
3. Encourage private insurance to cover personal assistance services.
4. Develop or support legislation that prevents discrimination in health insurance regarding pre-existing conditions and genetic testing.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

9. *Increase access to Assistive Technology and Information Technology.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Research and advocate for Idaho tax credit on assistive technology purchases.
2. Support increased funding for IATP loan program.

Responsible parties: Policy Committee and SILC staff

10. *Advocate for people with disabilities within the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Food Stamp systems in Idaho.*

ACTIVITIES

1. Research income criteria to qualify for food stamps and cash assistance.

Responsible parties: Program Committee and SILC staff

11. *Initiate the process of writing a 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).*

ACTIVITIES

1. The Planning Committee will meet and discuss a timeline for the process of SPIL completion.
2. Schedule a full-day planning session, with a facilitator, to discuss and write the goals and objectives.
3. Ask for statewide input through the Internet or during regional training sessions.
4. Prepare a draft for final review with consumers, advocates, disability organizations, etc.
5. Include people with disabilities who are unable to attend a meeting and who do not have access to the internet.

Responsible parties: Planning Committee and SILC Staff

Mandatory Area 1: Scope of and Arrangement for IL Services

A CIL is a non-profit corporation that assists people with significant disabilities who want to live more independently. CILs are managed and staffed by people with disabilities, are always located in the communities they serve, and assist people without regard to the type of disability they have.

The foundation of CIL services is the peer relationship—people with disabilities assisting other people with disabilities as role models, mentors, and counselors. Each Center is unique because it offers services based upon the particular needs of its community. At the same time, Centers are alike in that they all offer core services: information and referral, counseling, advocacy and skills training.

Most people with disabilities who live in institutions are there because they believe they have no other choice. CILs assist people in arranging personal care services, locating housing, obtaining financial resources for rental deposits, etc., and this past year have successfully relocated 24 Idahoans from nursing homes or other institutions to community-based living.

The services provided by CILs have also prevented 547 Idahoans from entering a nursing home or other institution this past year and allowed them to continue to live in a community-based setting.

People with disabilities in North Idaho, Salmon, Riggins and American Indian Reservations lack these vital services.

Each CIL is a separate non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with its own board of directors. This past year Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE), located in the southeast part of the state, received \$360,628 in Title VII, Part C funding; Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC), located in Boise and Twin Falls, received \$220,737; and Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC), located in Moscow receives \$114,397. All of the CILs receive their funds directly from RSA.

Satellites are administered by an existing Center and fill a critical need in the Idaho independent living network. Satellites make it possible for services and programs to be provided in outlying areas while avoiding the overhead of a freestanding non-profit corporation. The DAC Coeur d'Alene satellite was funded by the SILC from 1993-1999 using Title VII, Part B Funds with the amounts increasing each year. In 1999, the Idaho SILC advocated for and received state general funds in the amount of \$50,000 that was then contracted to DAC-NW to fund the Coeur d'Alene satellite center. The Title VII, Part B funds previously earmarked to operate the DAC Coeur d'Alene satellite were moved to LINC to open a new satellite in the Nampa/Caldwell area.

IDAHO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) is the sole agency designated by the State of Idaho to provide rehabilitation services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The ICBVI is committed to assisting individuals within the State who are legally blind in achieving their maximum potential. The Commission seeks to promote the full integration of citizens who are blind into the mainstream of society, both social and economic terms.

The ICBVI's services are intended to increase independence and to overcome the physical, psychological, social and economic problems that may accompany blindness. Idaho is a highly rural state with an average population density of 12.6 persons per square mile. There are

approximately 236,000 persons in Idaho who are over the age of 55. Among this population visual impairments are known to effect in excess of approximately 22,000 individuals. In fact, approximately 80% of Idaho's residents who experience visual impairments are aged 55 or older, and the prevalence of visual impairment increases steadily with age.

One particular goal of ICBVI is to enhance the level of independence among the State's elderly population that is blind and visually impaired. This goal is pursued primarily by way of the Older Blind grant. ICBVI has incorporated the Older Blind Program into its overall plan of services for residents of the state.

The Older Blind Program is designed to serve those who are 55 or older; legally or functionally blind, deaf/blind, or blind/multiply disabled. The program supplements existing ICBVI programs that include Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Comprehensive Independent Living Services, Prevention of Blindness Services, and an Assessment and Training Center in Boise.

The ICBVI will conduct outreach and increase public awareness of the purpose, goals, function, and services available for the blind and visually impaired through the Commission's Independent Living Program and the Commission's Independent Living Services For Older Individuals Who Are Blind (ILOB) Grant.

The ICBVI will improve and expand the quality and quantity of independent living services provided to the blind and visually impaired.

The primary focus of the program is to facilitate the acquisition and maintenance of independent living skills among individuals who are experiencing visual impairments that summarily interfere with activities of daily living. Individuals participating in the Older Blind Program are among a growing number of Americans with access to a program designed to assist and empower them to maintain independence despite their levels of residual vision. In essence, the program is designed to extend the active life expectancy of elders who are in the process of losing their vision.

Participants in the program are individuals residing in the State of Idaho, 55 years of age or older, whose visual impairments interfere with their ordinary activities of daily living. More than three out of four participants (78%) are totally or legally blind. Most individuals are referred to the program by acquaintances, health care providers, and local community agencies and organizations. For the most part, rehabilitation specialists who are dispersed geographically throughout the state serve clients in their homes. Individuals residing in all counties throughout the state benefit from the program.

Objectives of the Older Blind Program include the following:

- ___ Provide independent living services to individuals aged 55 and older who are legally or functionally blind
- ___ Expand services within Idaho to those who make up this population
- ___ Conduct activities that will help improve public understanding of the problems faced by this population

These program objectives are designed to provide older individuals who are blind with the ability to live and function with maximum independence and self-direction within their home and community environment. In some cases, these services may assist consumers in avoiding inappropriate or premature institutionalization.

OBJECTIVE: **To develop and implement a statewide outreach and public education plan. All activities are ongoing.**

ACTIVITIES:

- Distribute information packet of ICBVI services to optometrists and ophthalmologists, institutions, CILs, and other professionals statewide.
- Explain ICBVI functions to an increased number of eye-care, medical, and hospital professionals throughout Idaho.
- Educate retirement and senior center personnel regarding blindness, visual impairment, independent living, and services provided by the ICBVI.
- Promote awareness of cross-disability philosophy.
- Conduct an increased number of presentations to service clubs and church groups regarding the ICBVI's independent living services.
- Conduct an annual "Open House" for legislators, service providers, clients, SILC members, and the public.
- Provide information to the public regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertains to blindness and visual impairment.
- Provide and expand grant-related independent living services to the older blind on a statewide basis, including outreach to Senior Centers, and the establishment and maintenance of support groups.
- Provide and expand grant-related independent living services to the older blind on a statewide basis.
- Create greater public awareness of the nature of vision loss, the availability of ICBVI services and other support services for the older blind individual.

Responsible parties: IL Program Coordinator, Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center Instructors, Information Specialist.

OBJECTIVE: **Incorporate and include family members and any significant others in the training plans of Assessment and Training Center students.**

ACTIVITIES:

- Interact with consumers, family members, and significant others concerning their inclusion in the overall plan of services received from ICBVI.
- Provide expanded services including: home instruction, Assessment and Training Center, low vision, aids and appliances, transportation, reader services, and CCTV loaner program.
- Provide low vision evaluations at the ICBVI Low Vision Clinic.

Responsible parties: Assessment and Training Center personnel, Optometrist, IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Readers and Drivers.

OBJECTIVE: Counseling Services Including Psychological, Psychotherapeutic, and Related Services

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI provides such services through Home Instructors, peer support groups, or through IL contracts.

Responsible parties: IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Peer Support Group Coordinators, IL contractors.

OBJECTIVE: Rehabilitation Technology

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI provides this service via an Adaptive Technologist and contractors. Services may include training, education and equipment.

Responsible parties: Adaptive Technology staff.

OBJECTIVE: Orientation and Mobility Training

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI provides orientation and mobility training to persons who are blind or visually impaired. This service is provided through the Assessment and Training Center and Home Instructors.

Responsible parties: Assessment and Training Center Staff, Home Instructors.

OBJECTIVE: Services and Training for Persons with Cognitive and Sensory Disabilities.

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI trains individuals to lead independent lives and enhance their quality of life through life skills training and providing interpreter and reader services.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center staff, IL contractors and readers.

OBJECTIVE: Consumer Information Programs on Rehabilitation and Independent Living Services Available Under this Act, Especially for Minorities and Other Individuals with Disabilities Traditionally Unserved or Underserved by Programs Under this Act

ACTIVITIES:

- Consumers who are deaf/blind have particular problems relating to communication; mobility and other activities of daily living that make any degree of independent living very difficult.

ICBVI addresses these problems through the necessary training modality to further and enhance independence and quality of life.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center Staff.

OBJECTIVE: Education and Training Necessary for Living in the Community and Participating in Community Activities

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI provides for this need through the Assessment and Training Center, Home Instructors, and contractors.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors, IL contractors.

OBJECTIVE: Transportation Including Referral and Assistance

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI does not directly fund transportation programs but, on a case-by-case basis, may assist with such services for eligible independent living and ILOB clients.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors.

OBJECTIVE: Physical Rehabilitation

- Physical rehabilitation services can be provided by ICBVI to eligible IL clients as outlined in their IL training plan.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors.

OBJECTIVE: Therapeutic Treatment

ACTIVITIES:

- Therapeutic rehabilitation services can be provided by ICBVI to eligible IL clients if needed and included as a part of the individual's IL training plan.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors.

OBJECTIVE: Provision of Needed Prostheses and Other Appliances and Devices

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI provides aids and appliances or prostheses, if needed, through the client's IL training plan.

Responsible parties: Home Instructors.

OBJECTIVE: Individual and Group Social and Recreational Services

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI offers recreational activities for its IL and ILOB clients through the Assessment and Training Center, Senior Activity Groups, and Peer Support programs.

Responsible parties: IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center staff, Peer Support Group Coordinators.

OBJECTIVE: **Training to Develop Skills Specifically Designed for Youths Who are Individuals with Significant Disabilities to Promote Self-Awareness and Esteem, Develop Advocacy and Self-Empowerment Skills, and Explore Career Options**

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI coordinates information/referral with the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. IL services are also provided for consumers ages 16-21 years through the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP).

Responsible parties: Assessment and Training Center Staff, SWEP Coordinator.

OBJECTIVE: **Services for Children with Significant Disabilities**

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI continues to work with Special Education through the school system to develop and maintain goals of children as it relates to the IEP.

Responsible parties: IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center staff.

OBJECTIVE: **Community Awareness Programs to Enhance the Understanding and Integrating of People with Disabilities into Society**

ACTIVITIES:

- Community awareness is a major part of ICBVI's outreach activities. Media appearances, visibility in community at fraternal and service clubs, etc., all carry the message about inclusion and integration of people with disabilities. ICBVI considers this service to be a major area of responsibility of every member of the staff. In-service training components are provided to staff to prepare them to transmit this message throughout Idaho.

Responsible parties: ICBVI agency staff.

OBJECTIVE: **Other Services that May Be Necessary and Not Inconsistent with the Provisions of the Act**

ACTIVITIES:

- ICBVI will, when appropriate and within available fiscal resources, provide or refer to an alternate entity all other services as may be required for the consumer to be successful in the pursuit of independent living. ICBVI will, through public forums, surveys and other methods, ascertain any unmet service needs and, in future years, plan for the provision of those services.

Responsible parties: ICBVI agency staff.

OBJECTIVE: Independent Living Services

ACTIVITIES:

- Almost without exception, a loss of sight creates an immediate loss of independence. It places limitations on choices and options in life, such as reading and driving. These limitations can extend into all areas of life. Alternative techniques are the keys to overcoming these limitations.
- Home Instructors, through the Assessment and Training Center, and by contractors, can apply ICBVI IL Programs in the consumer's home.
- For the ICBVI, the Home Instructor secures the necessary assessment information, applies criteria and certifies whether a person is eligible for independent living services. There are two basic criteria for eligibility that must be met by all independent living applicants to ICBVI. For the purposes of the IL State Plan, the following definitions will apply:
 1. The individual is legally or functionally blind.
 2. The individual demonstrates the presence of an impairment in the ability to function independently in the family or community or to engage or continue in employment.

Eligibility for services is determined on functional terms and not necessarily on legal or medical terms. Taking functional limitations into consideration, an individual who has a severe visual impairment, which can be shown to impose a significant impact to the individual's capacity to live independently or to gain or maintain employment, should, therefore, be considered functionally blind and eligible for services.

- The Home Instructor determines functional blindness. Functional blindness means that the individual has a severe visual impairment that, although it does not meet the legal definition of blindness, presents to the individual a functional impairment equal to or greater than might normally be present with legal blindness.

Home Instructor Responsibilities

The following include, but are not limited to, the Home Instructor's responsibilities in the IL Program:

1. Determine eligibility.
2. Develop IL plans.
3. Acquire medical and eye reports and other pertinent information.
4. Provide instruction - assess consumer's capabilities; determine skills needed to function independently; determine appropriate instructional methods; provide individual instruction in Braille, cane travel, alternate techniques of daily living skills such as; cooking, sewing, record keeping and personal hygiene; evaluate progress and behavior; prepare reports; prepare instructional materials; and obtain supplies and equipment for home instruction.
5. Provide counseling - counsels consumers in adjusting to blindness; counsels

6. family members regarding blindness; advise consumers on personal problems and provide support to improve consumers' attitudes; assist consumers in obtaining housing, transportation and financial services.
7. Public relations - answer questions regarding blindness and agency services; give presentations to schools and community groups.
8. Provide leadership in the identification and development of community resources benefiting the blind.
9. Provide delivery of services through the ICBVI.

Assessment and Training Center

The Assessment and Training Center is a program that is unique to agencies for the blind and visually impaired. However, not all state or private agencies have such a program. The Center's focus is to present adaptive learning techniques which allow a blind person to become an independent member of society.

While students are working to change attitudes and opinions about blindness, they are also learning alternative techniques when coupled with improved self-confidence and self-esteem, provides the desire to pursue life's goals. Those alternative techniques are:

1. Braille - Students are taught to read and write Grade I and Grade II.
2. Orientation and Mobility- Students are taught to detect obstacles, variations in walking surfaces, steps, curbs, etc., and the ability to solve problems and process information about the surrounding environment.
3. Communication - Students are taught basic typing skills, uses of the computer, common software packages, and how to access the world of information. Students also clarify career goals, determine job interests and explore job options.
4. Industrial Arts - The purpose of industrial arts is to create confidence in a student by building a project using power and hand tools. This class has recently expanded by providing some basic skills such as: changing a sink drain and exploring a mockup of a light switch or a wall outlet to determine wiring connections.
5. Daily Living Skills - Students learn a variety of food preparation, cleaning, budgeting, and shopping techniques and will receive information on proper nutrition. Special sessions are also held in Personal Home Management on such topics as hair and skin care, makeup application, proper grooming, appropriate dress, and social skills.

The Assessment and Training Center mixes classroom instruction with a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, camping, picnics, movies, shopping, bowling, etc.

Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP)

Eligible young people, age 16 to 21, from around the state live in a supervised setting. They are instructed in Orientation and Mobility, using the bus system, grocery shopping, preparing meals, money management, banking and housekeeping.

The first three weeks of the program also provides participants with career exploration and job seeking skills. During the last six weeks young people experience real jobs, working side-by-side with sighted co-workers. Job Coaches are available when needed.

Contractual Services - Independent Living

The ICBVI contracts IL services that are structured according to consumer need. Presently, ILOB services for all ages are contracted with two homemaker service organizations in eastern Idaho and

one in northern Idaho. These services consist of networking and outreach, assessments, reader/driver services, providing aids and appliances, and presentations and information and referral on ICBVI services.

Contractual Services - Coordination and Facilitation of Peer Support Groups

Currently, ICBVI has contracts with several individuals who coordinate a total of forty Peer Support Groups through the ILOB Program. These groups are located in the following service Regions:

Region 1 - one group

Region 2 - three groups

Region 3 - twelve groups, which includes two Hispanic groups

Region 4 - four groups

Region 5 - twelve groups

Region 6 - eight groups

Independent Living for Older Individuals Who Are Blind (ILOB) Services

The objectives of this project are to; (1) provide independent living services to the older blind; (2) expand services for these individuals; and (3) conduct activities to help improve public understanding of the problems of these individuals. These objectives will give older blind individuals in Idaho the ability to live and function with maximum independence in their homes and community environments. The following activities will be used in the development of the objectives and will be ongoing throughout the award period of the grant.

ACTIVITIES:

- Older blind American Indians who reside on a reservation will be provided with information about blindness and ICBVI services. A Home Instructor will offer to assist in low vision evaluations and will offer financial assistance for the purchase of magnifiers whenever there is a financial need.
- Information and brochures about older blind services and eye conditions are available in Spanish
- Magnifiers and aids and appliances are supplied to older blind persons whenever a financial need is identified.
- In the past, the ICBVI provided a two-day training program for peer support group coordinators each year. The coordinators have asked for a two-day training in FY2005.
- ICBVI offers reader/driver services in Regions 3, 5 and 6. This service is available to individual consumers who do not have family members or others who will read daily mail or bills for them, or who are able to take them to doctor appointments, shopping, to the pharmacy, etc.
- ICBVI provides information and referral to ILOB consumers of all ages.
- Home instructors who are visually impaired or blind provide one-to-one peer counseling.
- Forty peer support groups are currently established by ICBVI in all six regions.

- Recreation services are organized by a Home Instructor and are coordinated with a senior center or a local recreation center for individuals with disabilities.
- Transportation may be part of a written rehabilitation plan based on financial need.
- Closed circuit television enlargers are available for loan through the ICBVI loaner program to consumers for periods of six months.
- Two days of outreach is provided to all regions at least one time annually.

The ICBVI follows the procedure of the Home Instructor securing the necessary assessment information, applying criteria and certifying the individual's eligibility for independent living services.

- Once eligibility has been determined, a Pre Program Assessment of Independent Living Skills is completed prior to training. An Independent Living Plan with goals is then developed, and training commences.
- A Post Program Assessment is completed when the consumer has finished training. The Pre/Post information is evaluated and included in the yearly Title VII Chapter 2 Evaluation Report.
- All consumers are advised of their individual rights under the Client Assistance Program (CAP).

Responsible parties: IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center staff, Information Specialist, IL contractors, Peer Support Group Coordinators, IL program evaluator.

Mandatory Area 2: Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various entities

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI and the CILs are committed to fostering cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors to ensure that appropriate IL strategies and resources are available and to avoid unnecessary duplication with other federal, state, and local programs.

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI and the CILs will ensure coordination and cooperation with other providers of IL or closely related services at the federal, state, county, municipal and public/private sector levels.

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI, and the CILs will continue to improve their cooperative working relationships regardless of federal or state funding. All parties involved will assume the responsibility to maintain awareness of Centers for Independent Living within the state.

Mandatory Area 3: Outreach to Unserved or Underserved Populations and Minority Groups

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC) ACTIVITIES

The SILC Membership and Policy Committees created a Nominating Policy and procedure that is followed by the Council when seeking nominations for vacancies on the SILC. The policy demonstrates the Council's desires to promote the representation of individuals with disabilities who are un-served or underserved, including minority groups, urban and rural populations. Currently, the SILC has one member who is Hispanic and one who is American Indian. The SILC American Indian is a member of the Nez Perce tribe and is also the director of the Nez Perce 121 Project.

The SILC has established a policy and procedure stating that all materials (printed or audio-visual) published and distributed by the Council will be available in alternative formats.

As demonstrated in its Outreach activities outlined in Attachment 1, the SILC will actively pursue methods to reach out to un-served and underserved populations, particularly among rural populations, by identifying independent living philosophy-oriented material for distribution.

The SILC will research and identify conferences that are supported and sponsored by minority organizations, request to be included on their agendas, attend their training sessions, and set up informational display booths.

IDAHO DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (IDVR) ACTIVITIES

The IDVR will make every effort to refer to other service providers and to inform its consumers about other services that would enhance individuals' employment and independent living goals.

IDAHO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ACTIVITIES

Outreach to Unserved, Underserved Populations And Minority Groups

ACTIVITIES:

- 1 All regions in Idaho have in place a program for purchasing aids, appliances, or magnifiers for persons who are at low income or poverty levels. A recipient of this program must show financial need.
- 2 The ICBVI Boise office has a pool of donated canes, aids, appliances, and magnifiers given to those casual consumers who are financially unable to purchase an item.
- 3 A consumer who qualifies for assistance under a cost share plan may be eligible for aids and appliances and magnifiers, or other devices that would result in their independence as a blind person. This service is available through the ICBVI IL and ILOB programs.
- 4 A consumer who qualifies for assistance under a cost share plan may be eligible for monetary maintenance to provide meals during attendance in the Assessment and Training Center Program. This service is provided through the IL and ILOB programs.
- 5 ICBVI utilizes the Assessment and Training Center by providing the services of Center instructors. Through the IL and ILOB programs the ICBVI Home Instructors provide services to remote areas of their regions. They are very active in their communities and they keep abreast of

outlying community affairs and individual needs. Presentations and workshops covering a variety of topics will be organized and implemented throughout the state.

6 ICBVI has two mobile low vision kits that are used by ophthalmologists and optometrists across the state. These two kits are currently being used and distributed by mail on an as needed basis through the Boise office.

7. ICBVI dispersed \$2,000 to three agencies for information and referral services; one in north Idaho and two in southeast Idaho.

8 The ICBVI Low Vision Clinic is available to individuals throughout the state. This service is free to those with financial need.

9 ICBVI will continue to ensure an average of up to three hours of home instruction per day to consumers throughout the state despite geography or case status.

10 ICBVI has a strong relationship with Diabetic Education Centers and tailors case services to meet the needs of diabetics including diabetic education. In the Assessment and Training Center the curriculum, diet, and scheduling needs of each diabetic are scrutinized to maximize their ability to participate in the Assessment and Training Center Program.

11 The Assessment and Training Center serves a broad array of individuals with multiple disabilities by providing both part-time and full-time attendance schedules.

12 Printed materials such as brochures and letters are distributed to consumer groups, ophthalmologists, and state and federal agencies and are available in alternate formats and Spanish.

13 Public meetings are held statewide in order to gather information on the need of the blind in urban, rural, poverty, and minority populations of Idaho.

14 ICBVI coordinates and implements training seminars to service providers and volunteers who deliver services to the disabled, economically disadvantaged, and the elderly. Service providers and volunteers may include home health providers, personal care attendants, nurses, teachers, senior program directors, and direct care staff of facilities.

15 ICBVI continues to work toward coordinating low vision services to consumers through the Home Instructors, the Low Vision Specialist, and the Low Vision Clinic staff.

16 ICBVI utilizes peer support coordinators to facilitate peer support groups for consumers of all ages in each region of the state. These facilitators provide information, training, and technical assistance during meetings. The ICBVI conducts peer support surveys and peer support group coordinator training that identifies the needs and objectives of the leaders and the needs of their group members.

17 ICBVI provides information and education to retirement centers, senior citizen center personnel, and other related organizations regarding independent living for consumers of all ages who are blind/visually impaired.

18 ICBVI conducts an annual Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) for visually impaired and blind 16 to 21 year old consumers. The purpose of this program is to provide independent living, career exploration, job seeking and actual work experience that are necessary to enter the world of work as an adult.

19 ICBVI Home Instructors are responsible for the 121 Programs within the regions and are encouraged to continue building relationships that will result in delivery of services.

20 ICBVI Home Instructors continue to provide low vision evaluations to the Native Indian Reservations. Magnifiers may be provided to those consumers who are eligible under a cost-sharing plan.

21 The regional offices are responsible for regular contact with the Migrant Councils.

Interpreter services are provided when needed. Service brochures and ophthalmology brochures on Glaucoma, Cataracts, Diabetic Retinopathy and Macular Degeneration have been translated into

Spanish and circulated to all Idaho's Migrant Council regional offices for distribution. These pamphlets continue to be available to each Council office.

Responsible parties: IL Coordinator, Assessment and Training Center personnel, Home Instructor, Information Specialist, Low Vision Clinic personnel.

CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILs) ACTIVITIES

Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers — The Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers (ICILC) will, in this plan period, compare consumer record data gathered from each Center's annual report and make recommendations on how Centers can better serve minority populations.

Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) — LINC will initiate an effort to increase cooperation among different disability groups, including the ICILC, ICBVI and IDVR. LINC will also continue to participate in the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities to encourage communication and coordination among organizations.

Services will be publicized on television, radio and through print media, and direct contact of LINC staff and volunteers with individuals and other organizations. An in-service training program will be developed which provides a forum for other agencies to present information to LINC staff and its Board members regarding organizational structure and services provided. LINC will also provide in-service training to other agencies regarding its services, the history and philosophy of independent living and the independent living movement. LINC plans to provide materials regarding its services, along with other resources, in Spanish and other languages.

Staff will meet with representatives of the Hispanic community in Nampa/Caldwell and Twin Falls to solicit input on the Center's minority outreach plan. A consumer satisfaction activity will be conducted with LINC consumers, which will include members of minority groups, to increase consumer control and satisfaction. LINC will continue its grassroots organizing work with people with disabilities in the Nampa/Caldwell area, which has a large Hispanic population. LINC will continue to work with the Idaho Migrant Council (IMC) in Nampa/Caldwell and Twin Falls and will encourage referrals from IMC to LINC. Outreach activities will be conducted by providing information at conferences and workshops, including the annual Idaho Hispanic Conference. LINC also plans to recruit for and appoint to its Board of Directors people who are Hispanic.

LINC will conduct a minimum of 60 outreach/awareness presentations annually and participate in information and resource fairs.

Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) -- LIFE will continually engage in aggressive outreach and advocacy activities to identify and serve individuals with disabilities. LIFE maintains two offices specifically to serve the two main minority populations in the LIFE service area. The Blackfoot office, which is located in Bingham County, serves the Hispanic and migrant worker population mainly in the Power, Bingham, and Bannock counties and assists the Burley office in Cassia and Minidoka counties. The Fort Hall office is located on the Fort Hall Reservation and specifically serves the American Indians at this locale. Staff are employed from these communities that know and relate to the cultures and traditions. LIFE will increase consumers from the Hispanic population to nineteen percent and Indian population to nine percent of total consumers served.

LIFE service area contains nineteen counties served from five offices. There are 40,426 square land miles in total for these counties with a population of approximately 400,000. LIFE will establish a volunteer point person in each county in which there are less than five active consumers served in that county in the 2003 fiscal year. The volunteer will have a staff person assigned for assistance from the nearest LIFE office. Outreach to more people with disabilities in the most rural and least populated counties will be served with the independent living philosophy.

LIFE will continue the work begun on the eleven million dollar, ten year 'Partners For Prosperity' grant project. This is a cooperative effort by many agencies in sixteen Eastern Idaho counties to define, identify, and give choices and opportunities to people living in poverty within these counties.

LIFE will continue working on the Real Choices Grant in the counties of Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson counties. Systemic changes within the communities of these three counties is the goal. This grant embodies the independent living philosophy of choice, self-determination, and overcoming the societal barriers the general public displays within its communities with accessibility, transportation, employment, housing, and lack thereof in current planning. LIFE is reaching out for the people with disabilities in these communities to become the core leaders in this grant and identifying the barriers of living within these communities and then take leadership roles for present and future planning.

Staff will continue contact with a minimum of fifty organizations and serve on a minimum of 15 committees or boards advocating, giving technical assistance, collaborating, or educating on behalf of people with disabilities.

A mentoring program for students transitioning from high school to college or high school to work will be started at the Pocatello office. LIFE staff will be involved and cooperate with the Idaho State University Center for Students with Disabilities. This will be a continuation and one part of the Blackfoot High School transition group that developed a curriculum to be used as a model for the state education system featuring the independent living philosophy.

LIFE will continually engage in aggressive outreach and advocacy activities to identify and serve individuals with significant disabilities. A concerted effort to identify and reach all disability groups will be made by the LIFE staff. With the cooperation of CART, LIFE has been reaching people with disabilities in the four northern counties of their service area with limited demand response transportation.

LIFE has hired a full-time American Indian from the ShoBan tribe to work with people on the Fort Hall Reservation. This person will advocate with the Tribal Council on behalf of people with disabilities who live on the Reservation to improve employment opportunities through home-based business and transportation options.

LIFE currently has a contractor in the town of Montpelier that conducts outreach and advocacy. Sign language classes are conducted for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC) — DAC will engage in outreach activities designed to locate and serve individuals with significant disabilities, particularly those who have been unserved or underserved in the past. Available services will be publicized on radio and print media, and through direct contact of DAC staff and volunteers with individuals and other organizations.

Meeting space will be made available to various support groups, etc., to increase DAC's visibility and to support various group activities. The DAC newsletter will continue to be published and distributed.

Staff, volunteers and/or Board members will meet with other disability organizations and groups to explain DAC's services, identify consumers, and increase referrals. Regular contact will be maintained with agencies that may refer individuals to DAC, particularly those that serve underserved groups.

DAC will engage in outreach specific to underserved disability groups. Service statistics for each year will be reviewed to determine the most unserved or underserved populations. Outreach will be targeted to those groups.

DAC staff will continue to be involved with human rights groups to support issues of importance to other minority groups and to bring disability issues to the forefront. Diversity training will continue to be a part of Board orientation.

Staff will continue to work with area American Indian rehabilitation and health service agencies to identify issues with which DAC can be involved and to reach tribal members with IL needs. DAC will make every effort to maintain American Indian membership on its Board.

Efforts will be made to reach out to Hispanic residents in Boundary County, particularly through identification of local community representatives and distribution of translated materials.

Objective 1—Network of Centers

Sparse population, vast distances between population centers, a marginal understanding of the concept of independent living, and a lack of financial resources have made the expansion and development of existing independent living (IL) programs a difficult process.

In FY 1997 the SILC and CILs developed and passed legislation that exempts CILs from paying State sales tax. This tax reduction has provided a small amount of assistance to the Centers in dealing with increased operating costs.

In FY 1998 the SILC and CILs developed and passed legislation that provides a tax credit of 50 percent of the donation up to \$200 to people who donate to a CIL. It is anticipated that the provision of a tax credit will help encourage Idahoans to donate to CILs who might otherwise select another entity to contribute to.

The SILC will continue to support the development of a network of centers through the following activities:

1. Advocating for additional state and federal funding to bring all CILs and satellite offices to adequate funding levels.
2. Dedicating the SILC Title VII, Part B funding for leadership development in tandem with the CILs.
3. Using available resources for the provision of technical assistance, which will benefit the CILs.

4. Dedicating SILC Title VII, Part B funding for the general operation of CILs.

Should additional federal funding become available during the course of this three-year Plan, the funds will be distributed according to the following:

Idaho has determined that CILs in this state need a base budget of \$250,000 in order for the center to comply with the requirements of the laws and regulations governing centers for independent living. Therefore, all new federal funds allotted specifically to support the operations of centers for independent living in this state shall be distributed in equal amounts to the existing centers in this state until such time as each center's base budget is \$250,000. After existing centers are funded at \$250,000, any remaining federal funds shall be used to bring existing Satellite centers up to a base funding of \$100,000, any remaining federal funds will then be used for the creation of new centers for independent living or new satellite centers on an Idaho Native American Indian Reservation and then in central Idaho.

The SILC is proposing the following plan to expand the core services offered through the Idaho Centers for Independent Living.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Work with IDVR, ICBVI, the CILs and the Idaho State Legislature for an adequate appropriation and continue to seek state general funds at a minimum of the current level for the operation of CIL satellite offices.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Work to develop additional resources to support special projects that may be implemented through CILs.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Continue national efforts to increase distribution of funds to rural states.

ATTACHMENT 2

PLAN FOR THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES TO THE STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (RESOURCE PLAN)

The following resource plan was developed to support operational expenditures approved by the State Independent Living Council. Funds for the plan will come from Title VII, Part B and Title I, Part C of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, State General Funds, and other federal, state and private funding sources. The SILC will be solely responsible for its budget and for the approval of expenditures. The resource plan will support the Council's activities, including personnel, operating, and funding projects, such as supporting the general operations of centers for independent living, demonstrating ways to expand and improve IL services, outreach to un-served or underserved populations, providing training regarding IL philosophy, conducting studies and analyses, developing model policies, etc.

Sufficient Appropriation:

It is understood and agreed that ICBVI and IDVR are governmental agencies and this SPIL shall in no way be construed so as to bind or obligate the State of Idaho, SILC, ICBVI or IDVR beyond the term of any particular appropriation of funds by the Idaho State Legislature or the United States Congress (hereafter "Appropriating Bodies"). The amounts set out in the resource Plan contained in Attachment 2 of the SPIL (hereafter "Resource Plan") for FY 2005 have been appropriated by the Appropriating Bodies and are committed for the use of the SILC. However, SILC acknowledges and agrees that if the Appropriating Bodies shall, for whatever reason, hold back the whole or a percentage of the FY 2005 funds, a similar amount shall be withheld from the funds committed to SILC for FY 2005. The amounts set forth in the Resource Plan for FY 2006 and FY 2007 are not approved budget requests by SILC, IDVR or ICBVI. It is understood that these figures represent the projected budget of SILC and are included for SILC's planning purposes. If IDVR or ICBVI determine they cannot support the budget requests of SILC, or if the appropriation approved by the Appropriating Bodies is different than the projected budgets, for FY 2006 and FY 2007, as set forth in the Resource Plan, ICBVI, IDVR and SILC shall meet and agree upon an appropriate amendment to the resource Plan. If ICBVI, IDVR and SILC are unable to reach an agreement as to the appropriate amendment to the resource Plan, they shall jointly request the assistance of RSA in developing such amendment.

State FY 2005 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds.....	\$.....	78,700
Federal Grants Funds		
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR.....	\$.....	163,700
Title I Part C to ICBVI.....	\$.....	40,700
Misc. Revenue Funds		
State appropriated funds to ICBVI to match		
Title I Part C.....	\$.....	13,100
Office sub lease rental income.....	\$.....	6,000
TOTAL.....	\$.....	302,200

FOR:

Personnel	\$ 151,545
Operating Expenditures	\$ 74,100
Contractual	\$ <u>76,555</u>
TOTAL	\$ 302,200

State FY 2006 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds	\$.. 133,800
Federal Grants Fund	
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR	\$... 163,700
Sub lease rental income	\$..... <u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 303,500

FOR:

Personnel (FTE 3.0)	\$ 152,845
Operating Expenditures	\$ 74,100
Contractual	\$ <u>76,555</u>
TOTAL	\$ 303,500

State FY 2007 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds	\$ 135,800
Federal Grants Fund	
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR	\$ 163,700
Sub lease rental income	\$..... <u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 305,500

FOR:

Personnel (FTE 4.0)	\$ 154,845
Operating Expenditures	\$ 74,100
Contractual	\$ <u>76,555</u>
TOTAL	\$ 305,500

ATTACHMENT 3

EVALUATION PLAN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE PLAN

The independent living objectives are guided by a philosophy that values all human beings equally and emphasizes the dignity and need for self-determination of all people with disabilities. It supports the right and the opportunity for each individual to pursue a course of action of their own choice.

Each Center for Independent Living (CIL) has in place requirements regarding standards and methodology of evaluation. The Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) has in place standards and processes to evaluate independent utilization within the services offered by the Commission. The Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) as an active partner in the development of the state's Independent Living Plan also has in place standards and processes that will evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Independent Living Plan as it interrelates with individual vocational plans.

The SILC will monitor the service delivery provided through the CILs and the functioning of Centers regarding meeting current standards and objectives by receiving and reviewing the 704 Reports provided by each CIL. The RSA regional office will be responsible for CIL Compliance with the standards and assurances outlined in the Act and any on-site visits.

The SILC will request from the CILs consumer satisfaction data obtained by surveys required by the Act. The SILC will monitor this data annually to determine gaps or needs in services identified by the consumer. The SILC will use this information to guide its own policies and program decisions.

The SILC will monitor the service delivery provided by the ICBVI by receiving and reviewing information provided in the 704 Report. The RSA regional office will be responsible for any on site visits.

The SILC will request from the ICBVI consumer satisfaction data obtained by surveys required by the Act. The SILC will monitor this data annually to determine gaps or needs in services identified by the consumer. ICBVI will retain an outside contractor to evaluate the IL Program and provide recommendations for improvements through a written evaluation of existing services. A copy of the written evaluation will be provided to the SILC.

The objectives/activities outlined by the SPIL will be evaluated annually. The SILC will review the present goals and objectives to determine their relevancy to the current independent living needs of the state. The SILC in this self-evaluation process, will review the plan, noting the following information:

- a. The activities conducted during the year that have a relationship to the stated goals and objectives, and
- b. The results of the activities conducted.

With this report of the past year's accomplishments in mind, the SILC will evaluate the current

goals and objectives to determine whether to:

- a. Continue with existing goals and objectives,
- b. Modify existing goals and objectives,
- c. Terminate existing goals and objectives, or
- d. Add new goals and objectives.

During this evaluation process, the SILC will determine changes, modifications, and recommendations for action in the coming year.

The SILC, IDVR and ICBVI will develop, as necessary, other evaluation initiatives as required by federal rule and regulation.

WPDOCS/Plans-Reports/SPII/2005-2007/2005-2007regfinal.doc